

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Continuation-in-Part Application Of:

Applicants: William M. Sugden, et al.  
Serial No.: 08/968,239  
Filed: November 12, 1997  
For: INHIBITION OF VIRAL GENE ACTIVITIES  
Group Art Unit: 1648  
Examiner: U. Winkler

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified case, please  
cancel all claims and insert the following new claims:

15. (New Claim) A method of screening viral  
replication inhibitors and viral transcription inhibitors  
comprising:

(a) adding a candidate molecule to a mammalian  
cell culture;

(b) providing a control mammalian cell culture  
without the candidate molecule, wherein the cell cultures  
of both (a) and (b) comprise viral looping/linking  
factors and nucleic acid molecules comprising at least  
two binding sites for the factors, whereby an operable  
factor will link the sites;

(c) allowing said candidate molecule to  
interact with the viral looping/linking factor present in  
the mammalian cell culture of step (a); and

(d) analyzing the factor for inhibition by the  
candidate molecule and comparing the result to the

results using the control culture, wherein the candidate molecule inhibits protein:protein linking as demonstrated by the factor being unable to mediate linking in the presence of the candidate molecule.

16. (New Claim) The method of claim 15 wherein the looping/linking factor is EBNA1.

17. (New Claim) The method of claim 15 wherein the assay is a gel shift assay.

18. (New Claim) The method of claim 15 wherein the assay is a promoter activation assay.

19. (New Claim) The method of claim 15 wherein the factor binding sites are on a plasmid.

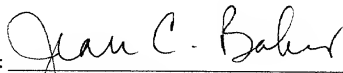
No fees are thought to be necessary to enter these new claims. However, if a fee is necessary please charge Deposit Account 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Sugden, et al.

March 14, 2001

By:

  
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